FIGHT BACK!

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. ANN'S ANTI POLL TAX UNION 30p.

UNITY IS STRENGTH

ISSUE 1 September 1989

Despite Tory lies telling us how much "fairer" the Poll Tax will be, there is tremendous anger among working class people all over the country at the prospect of having to register and pay the Tory tax. Threats of fines and court summons from council registration officers and the Labour Party and the Trade Union leaders refusal to lead a fight telling us "we must not break the law", has failed to stop resistance from the working class locally and nationally to this unfair/unjust tax.

In Scotland mass non-payment is a reality, whole estates are simply refusing to pay and Poll Tax collectors and bailiffs have been chased away by angry residents. Official figures show that after five months 900,000 Scots have paid nothing, and between half a million and 6000,000 are in arrears. The working class in Scotland has shown what is possible.
In St. Ann's we have made a good start with, so far over 50 members/ supporters committed to non-payment, holding regular meetings, stalls, distributing leaflets — we have come far we have a long way to go. Our message is simple, as individuals we are powerless but collectively across the whole community involving housewives, unemployed,workers, the young and the pensioners we can defeat the Poll Tax. Our aim should be to encourage non-payment groups at street level, neighbours who will support each other. It is important that no one is left alone to fight, street groups ensure that help is never more than a few doors away

This is the first Newsletter of the St. Ann's Anti-Poll Tax Union. We aim to publish "Fight Back" every month. We would welcome any articles from members/supporters to submit them for future Newsletters.

Weekly Meetings Every Tuesday 7.30p.m.

A.C.N.A. Centre Hungerhill Road or Phone [redacted]

PAY NO POLL TAX

ST ANNS
ANTI POLL TAX UNION

MORE THAN ENOUGH

Since the Tories came into power in 1979 - yes it's ten years - they have mounted a continuous attack on the working class.

PRIVATISATION - Companies like Gas and Telecom have been sold off to stock exchange speculators who have made millions. They carry on making millions by increasing prices.

Electricity is on it's way and the Tories are paying the stock exchange sharks 5½ billion - yes billions - to take water off their hands. It's poison.

HOUSING It's almost impossible now for a new tenant to get a council house or flat. Not only has building of them been slashed but the Tories are selling council property at give away prices.

UNEMPLOYMENT Is just under 2 million if you believe that you will believe anything. The way the figures are collected has been changed no less than 27 times. In other words it's a simple fiddle! The real figure is probably double the governments one. Not counting people - makes the figures look good.

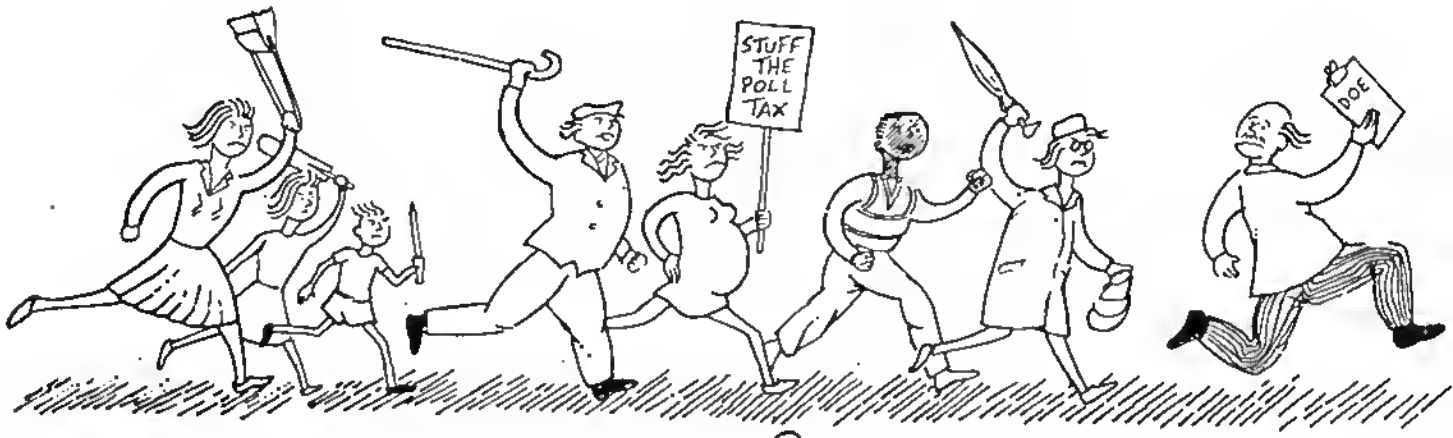
HEALTH The Tories plans are for two Health Services. A good private one for those who can pay - a N.H.S. starved of cash for the rest of us.

EDUCATION Over 1000 kids in London don't go to school now because there are no teachers for them. Today London - tomorrow the rest of the country. Why no teachers? Because they "can't afford it". The cash available is for the parasites not the people.

THE BUDGET Every Tory budget has shifted wealth from the poor to the rich. The rich have had massive tax cuts. Not satisfied with all this they now want to bring in the Poll Tax.

THE POLL TAX Whereas the rates had a rough element of fairness - the larger the - property - the larger the rates - the Poll Tax is a standard charge. The Mapperley Plains rich in their ½million pound chalets pay the same as the person in a council flat in St. Ann's. The rich pay less! the poor more! We can cut down on "luxuries" (example heat, food, clothes) while they get another Mercedes. No! I don't want to pay the Poll Tax to finance that extra holiday for the rich! St. Ann's not St. Moritz! So break the law - not the poor!

The Poll Tax - no one can stop it but us!



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POLL TAX THE FACTS

At least that's what the meeting on 31st. August at the Greyfriars Club was supposed to be about. In fact it turned out to be two officals from the 'Community Charge' department of the Treasury telling us how easy it was going to be to pay through the bank! Yes - and you can pay it in ten payments!

No! They did'nt want to answer the question from St. Ann's Anti Poll Tax Union members
1. What do they think about the City Councils own figures showing 70% of people in Nottingham will lose out?
2. How can you justify a Tax where the millionaire pays the same as a machinist?
3. What about the massive computer snooping collecting the Poll Tax entails?

Oh dear me no - these questions are - wait for it - political. Our officals were only here to give you the 'facts' about paying the Poll Tax. No of course they did not Agree with the Poll Tax - you have to say that when a Labour council employs you— they were only obeying orders. This is the defence used by any slimy bailiff or debt collectors "if I don't do it someone else will".

So dear friends when you get your Poll Tax bill please remember - ther'e only doing their job. Too right the Poll Tax is political and political question No.1 is why should the poor pay yet again to subsidise the rich?

ADVERTISEMENT

TAKEAWAY

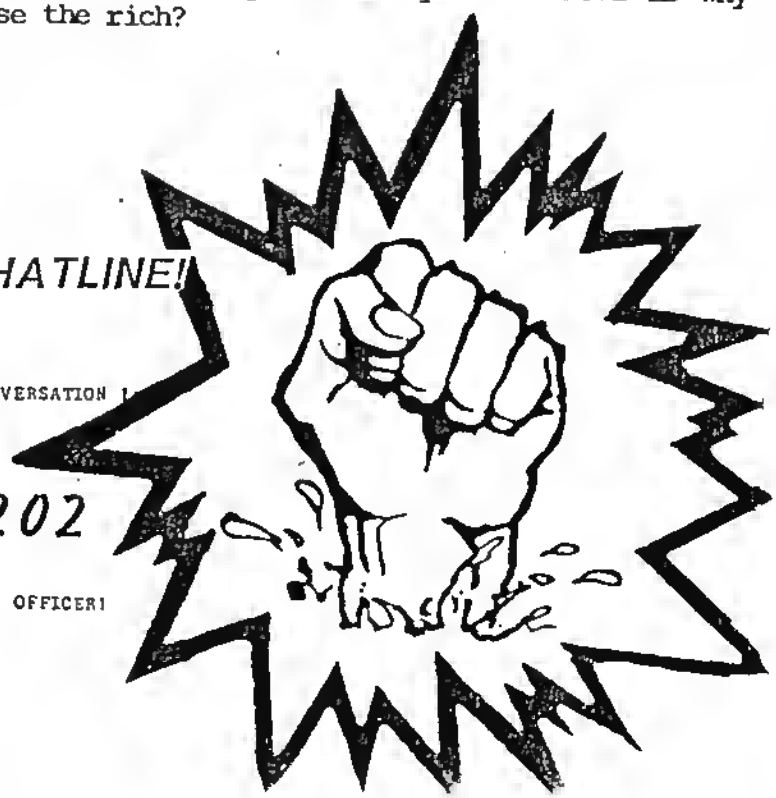
NOTTINGHAM'S NEW LOCAL CHATLINE!

LIVE I TO I CONVERSATION ! LIVE I TO I CONVERSATION !

RING 483501 EXT 4202

AND TALK TO YOUR LOCAL 'COMMUNITY CHARGE ' OFFICER!

(OVER 18s ONLY)



POLL TAX: CHEAPER WHEN YOUR DEAD!

THANK you, Toby Jessel, for the good news about the poll tax, delivered in a really positive, upbeat way to a 74-year-old retired baker and his wife. The Twickenham Tory MP's advice to the elderly worried about the extra expense, seems to amount to this: you can always save money by dropping dead. Witness the letter he has sent to Edward and Pat Quirk, quoted in the Richmond and Twickenham Times. The couple had pointed out that their poll tax bill will exceed their present rates by £200. Mr Jessel's reply: some households with two adults may pay more. "However, there is one delicate point that I cannot avoid mentioning. As, alas, we all have to die some time, then when one partner goes only one community charge will be paid instead of two." Helpful, eh?

Independent

Maggie Warned Of Poll Tax 'Disaster'

MRS THATCHER returns from her Austrian holiday this week to face Tory wernings ot "political disaster" over the community charge or poll tax.

The Prime Minister will come under increasing pressure from her backbenchers to change the "safety-nat" system which will see poll tax payers in Tory areas subsidising high-spending Labour-run councils.

One of her former ministers end close political supporters, now a senior Conservative backbencher, will alert ministers to the risk of ballot box "revenge" from voters.

Present plans could see annual poll tax bills rise by as much as £75, he says.

In a hard-hitting speech, Sir Rhodes Boyson, an executive membar ot the powerful Tory backbench 1922 Committee and Local Government Minister from 1986-87, describes the proposals as indefenelble and "flawed".

No Tory MP or counellior could defend the system as it stands and the safety-nat burden must be fully funded by the Treasury, he says.

"If the Government continues with a safety net largely financed by Conservative boroughs trar sterring money to Labour boroughs the political results will ba disastroua," warns the MP for Brent North.

SUNDAY POST

POLL TAX: THE TORIES GET WORRIED LET'S MAKE THEM FRANTIC SMASH THE POLL TAX

THE change to the new community charge, commonly known as the poll tax, will cost Nottingham at least £1m, the Leader of the City Council has warned.

The Government's estimate that it will cost £242 a head could be £100 too low, says Councillor Mrs Betty Higgins.

POLL TAX: HOW MUCH? EVEN THEY DON'T KNOW!

Nott's Arrow

RESIST THE POLL TAX

CAN'T PAY - WON'T PAY

POLL TAX - ROBBING THE POOREST

INDEPENDENT

Poll tax debt 'to be taken from benefit'

THE GOVERNMENT is assuming that local councils will apply next year to deduct poll tax arrears directly from social security benefits.

Of an estimated 750,000 applications, the Department of Social Security says 600,000 will succeed.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, disclosed yesterday the contents of a leaked DSS paper which shows

By Colin Hughes
Political Correspondent

that at least 600 new posts will have to be created within the DSS in the first year of poll tax to deal with debts.

"The document is an explosive indictment of the horrors and the costs of the poll tax," Mr Blunkett said. "The Government's own figures, which almost certainly underestimate the likely extent of poll tax arrears, reveal a major new debt problem which will hit the poor after 1 April 1990. The DSS clearly accept that hundreds of thousands of people, already on the breadline, will simply not be able to pay their poll tax bills."

The costs of servicing direct deductions from income support payments would be at least £20m a year, with up to an extra £12m being spent on additional staff.

The leaked paper shows that, where people on income support fail to pay their proportion of the poll tax, they will have the debt deducted from their benefit at the rate of £1.75 a week if they are single, or £2.75 a week for couples. Deductions would follow housing, fuel and water debts in order of priority.

POLL TAX PARADE - HOW TO FIGHT IT

IN SCOTLAND THE POLL

THE POLL TAX WAS INTRODUCED

IN APRIL 1989

THE LATEST NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

BUT PEOPLE ARE NOT PAYING

PRESTONFIELD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY RESISTANCE AGAINST THE POLL TAX

BULLETIN NO.6 JULY 1989

POLL TAX CRUMBLING: STAND FIRM- DON'T PAY

After three months of the Tory Poll Tax the whole system is in absolute chaos. Most important of all at least one million have refused to pay. The following official figures were released by Council finance departments at the end of May:-
Fife Region: 105,000 out of 260,000 hadn't paidCentral Region: 66,000 out of 220,000 hadn't paid. Tayside Region: 120,000 out of 200,000 hadn't paid.Lothian Region: 300,000 out of 680,000 hadn't paid. Strathclyde Region: so far behind that no figures yet available. At least 700,000 out of 1,750,000 in Strathclyde hadn't paid.. With such a massive level of defiance the administrative machinery is on the brink of collapse.

GREAT STUFF CAN'T PAY WON'T PAY

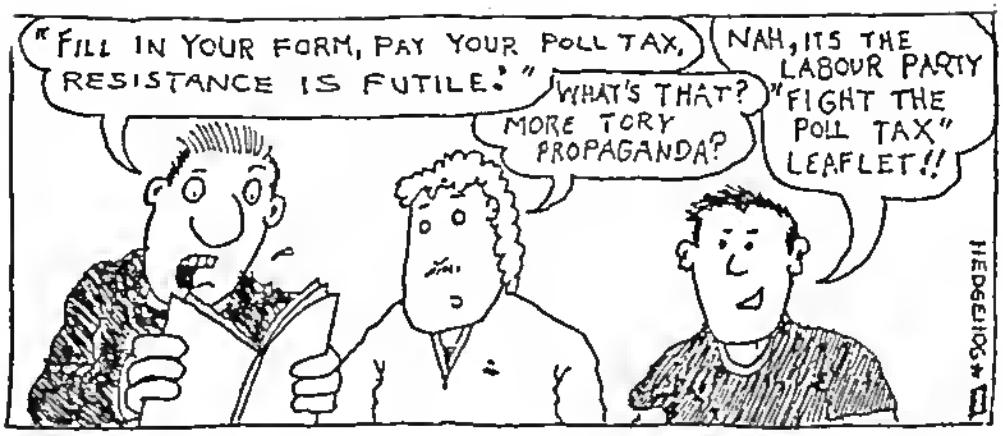
NOW - LETS JOIN THEM!

——POLL TAX CHAOS IN ENGLAND AND WALES——

Millions of people in England and Wales have now joined with the Scots non-payers, to resist registration down South . In some areas of London up to 50% haven't returned their forms. Federations of anti-poll tax groups now exist across the country to support non-payment. 40,000 marched in Manchester on July 1st in the biggest demonstration yet seen. This followed a massive demonstration of over 10,000 in Glasgow on June 24th in support of non-payment.

UNITED!

WE CAN BEAT IT!



How not to fight

WORKING CLASS PEOPLE waging war on the poll tax won't just find themselves up against the lories and the courts.

For the leaders of the Labour Party and the Trade Union movement are just as opposed to the idea of working class people taking independent action for themselves outside of their control.

Kinnock may have 'denounced' the poll tax in speeches in Parliament, but behind this public facade, he and his party are trying to stamp out all attempts to build an effective fight against it.

Kinnock and Norman Willis boss of the TUC are trying to divert people's anger over the poll tax into useless gestures, which they know won't threaten the poll tax at all: like signing petitions asking Thatcher to think again!

He's repeatedly denounced those calling for a collective campaign of nonpayment, and unofficial action by council, and other, workers.

In Scotland, where the Scottish TUC were faced with the prospect of workers taking unofficial strike action over the poll tax, they called for an absurd 11 minute 'stoppage' last autumn, in a vain attempt to burn up people's anger, and, at the same time give the impression that they were leading the fight against the poll tax!

Once the eleven minutes was up, they rushed around ordering pickets back to work!

Behind these pathetic attempts to delude people, the reality of the Labour Party's opposition to the poll tax is all too clear.

In Labour controlled local authorities throughout Scotland, England and Wales, council leaders are gearing up to <u>implement</u> the poll tax, and push through all the cuts in council services that go with it.

They're busy preparing to send out the bills, and if they aren't paid to dispatch the bailiffs to the homes of working class families, to break down their front doors...

Up and down the country, Labour authorities have joined Tory ones in spending millions of pounds installing the computer systems necessary to collect the poll tax which also hold secret files on everyone who is liable to pay it.

That is what Kinnock and Co.'s 'opposition' to the poll tax amounts to: attempting to sabotage effective action against it, while busily preparing to put it into practice.

Acknowledgements to A.C.F.

PAY NO POLL TAX!